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Announcement of the Final Date to Withdraw from Classes Without Academic Penalty

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Approved by the Senate:

Not Approved by the Senate: 9/15/2003 (motion was defeated 17-14.)

Approved by the President:

Not Approved by the President:

Announcement of the Final Date to Withdraw from Classes Without Academic Penalty

Submitted by: Clara Krug

9/2/2003

Motion:

That 10 days prior to the first day of classes each semester the Office of the Registrar inform faculty in writing of the final date to withdraw from classes without academic penalty during that semester.

Response:

Proposal from Clara Krug (CLASS) re: Informing Faculty of Last Date to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty

Krug (CLASS) moved as follows: "That ten days prior to the first day of classes each semester the Office of the Registrar inform faculty in writing of the final date to withdraw from classes without academic penalty during that semester." The motion was seconded.

Cyr (Moderator) mentioned that Registrar Mike Deal advised that his office could provide this but that Deal also suggested that it might be easier for faculty to go to the Registrar's web site.

Krug's (CLASS) concern centered around a change in the drop deadline, as approved by the Senate in June. Faculty who are away for the summer often use the web site to identify important dates for inclusion in their syllabi. This past summer the Registrar's page showed "October 1, last day to withdraw without academic penalty" for quite a while, and faculty who are out of town may not be aware of Senate actions until the Fall, after the semester has already begun. Krug (CLASS) clarified that she requested the advanced notification so that those people would have time to change their syllabi. Flynn (CLASS) felt this would be a one-time occurrence, but Krug (CLASS) thought that since we are supposed to include the drop date on our syllabus it would be good to remind faculty, and it would be more helpful to have it ten days before class rather than one.

Edwards (COST) asked if that place on the web is the official place where they keep these dates and Cyr (Moderator) offered that he believed it to be the official calendar. Edwards (COST) relayed that a student bought a planner from the bookstore that had the old drop date in it so this did cause a little bit more confusion than just having it changed. The student was completely unaware that the drop date was the 14th, until she saw Edwards' syllabus.

Dr. John Brown (COBA) agreed with Flynn (CLASS) that it was a one-time problem, while LoBue (COST) supported Krug (CLASS) because we are now asked to make reports on freshmen and they have to be done in such a timely manner that the date really is critical. Phyllis Dallas (CLASS) added that she checked the spring 2004 schedule and the drop date is correct, but those schedules are available several semesters ahead of time for people who are involved in scheduling/planning, so until this date is absolutely set there may be misinformation on the web. She believed the Registrar's web site also has a note saying these dates may not be absolute. Krug (CLASS) read from the Registrar's page, which confirmed that changes may be made at any time. Dallas (CLASS) supported Krug's (CLASS) motion because there have been problems with dates for final exams.

Flynn (CLASS) wondered if many important dates, and not just the one, were in question and if the motion should be changed to reflect that. Krug (CLASS) wanted whatever was easiest for faculty and students.

Cyr (Moderator) noted that the Registrar already informs faculty of changes or errors in published materials, and that Krug's (CLASS) motion properly dealt with one key date; Krug (CLASS) agreed that the one date was her concern. Robinson (CLASS) asked if there was incorrect data on the Registrar's web site, and he and Dallas (CLASS)

engaged in a side conversation on this subject until Cry (Moderator) called them back to the motion on the floor, at which Robinson (CLASS) noted that if the web site is kept accurate, he saw no need for extra notifications. Cyr (Moderator) called the vote, and the motion was defeated 17-14.